

House Study Bill 94 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AFFAIRS BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON ALONS)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to special motor vehicle registration plates
2 for certain disabled military veterans and establishing
3 fees.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 35A.11, Code 2013, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 11. Disabled veteran — branch of service
4 plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 27.

5 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, Code 2013, is amended by adding the
6 following new subsection:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 27. *Disabled veteran — branch of service*
8 *plates.*

9 a. The department, in consultation with the adjutant
10 general, shall design disabled veteran plates as provided in
11 section 321.166, subsection 6, with separate distinguishing
12 processed emblems representing each of the five branches of the
13 United States military service.

14 b. An owner referred to in subsection 12 who is a veteran
15 of the United States armed forces with a service-connected
16 disability rated at ten percent or higher may, upon written
17 application to the department and presentation of satisfactory
18 proof of military service and service-connected disability
19 status, order disabled veteran — branch of service plates
20 associated with the veteran's branch of military service.

21 c. The special fee for the issuance of disabled veteran
22 — branch of service plates is twenty-five dollars, which is
23 in addition to the regular annual registration fee. The fees
24 collected by the director under this subsection shall be paid
25 monthly to the treasurer of state and deposited in the road use
26 tax fund. The treasurer of state shall transfer monthly from
27 the statutory allocations fund created under section 321.145,
28 subsection 2, to the veterans license fee fund created under
29 section 35A.11, the amount of the special fees collected in the
30 previous month for the disabled veteran — branch of service
31 plates.

32 d. Upon receipt of the special registration plates, the
33 applicant shall surrender the current registration plates to
34 the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall validate
35 the special registration plates in the same manner as regular

1 registration plates are validated under this section. The
2 annual special fee for disabled veteran — branch of service
3 plates is five dollars, which shall be paid in addition to the
4 regular annual registration fee. The annual special plate fee
5 shall be credited and transferred as provided under paragraph
6 "c".

7 e. Notwithstanding any other provision, the owner of a motor
8 vehicle referred to in subsection 12 who is a veteran of the
9 United States armed forces with a service-connected disability
10 rated at eighty percent or higher may order one set of disabled
11 veteran — branch of service plates to be issued at no charge
12 to the applicant in exchange for the registration plates
13 previously issued for the vehicle. A person who is issued
14 special plates under this paragraph is exempt from payment of
15 any annual registration fee for the motor vehicle bearing the
16 special plates. An applicant for special registration plates
17 under this paragraph may order only one set of registration
18 plates under this paragraph, but may order additional disabled
19 veteran — branch of service plates according to the terms of
20 paragraphs "c" and "d".

21 f. The surviving spouse of a person who was issued special
22 plates under this subsection may continue to use or apply for
23 and use the special plates subject to registration of the
24 special plates in the surviving spouse's name and upon payment
25 of the annual five-dollar special plate fee and the regular
26 annual registration fee for the vehicle, if applicable. If the
27 surviving spouse remarries, the surviving spouse shall return
28 the special plates to the department and the department shall
29 issue regular registration plates to the surviving spouse.

30 Sec. 3. Section 321.145, subsection 2, paragraph b,
31 subparagraph (3), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:

32 (3) The amounts required to be transferred pursuant to
33 section 321.34 from revenues available under this subsection
34 shall be transferred and credited as provided in section
35 321.34, subsections 7, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, 11B, 13, 16, 17, 18,

1 19, 20, 20A, 20B, 20C, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, ~~and 26~~, and 27 for
2 the various purposes specified in those subsections.

3 Sec. 4. Section 321.166, subsection 6, Code 2013, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 6. Registration plates issued to a disabled veteran under
6 the provisions of section 321.34, subsection 27, or section
7 321.105 shall display the alphabetical characters "DV" which
8 shall precede the registration plate number. The plates may
9 also display a persons with disabilities parking sticker if
10 issued to the disabled veteran by the department under section
11 321L.2.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill requires the department of transportation to
14 issue special disabled veteran — branch of service motor
15 vehicle registration plates associated with a veteran's branch
16 of military service. The bill requires the department, in
17 consultation with the adjutant general, to design disabled
18 veteran plates with separate distinguishing processed emblems
19 representing each of the five branches of United States
20 military service. The special plates will also display the
21 characters "DV" preceding the registration plate number, which
22 is the case with special plates currently issued to certain
23 seriously disabled veterans. The disabled veteran — branch
24 of service plates will be available to veterans of the United
25 States armed forces who have a service-connected disability
26 rated at 10 percent or higher. The initial fee for issuance of
27 the special plates is \$25, and the annual renewal fee is \$5.
28 Both fees are in addition to the regular annual registration
29 fee for the vehicle.

30 Pursuant to current law, all motor vehicle registration fees
31 are deposited in the road use tax fund. Under the bill, an
32 amount equal to the amount collected from the \$25 issuance fee
33 and the \$5 renewal fee for special disabled veteran — branch
34 of service plates is credited from the statutory allocations
35 fund to the veterans license fee fund administered by the

1 commission of veterans affairs.

2 The bill provides that a veteran with a service-connected
3 disability rated at 80 percent or higher is entitled to receive
4 one set of the disabled veteran — branch of service plates at
5 no charge, and the veteran is exempt from the payment of annual
6 registration fees for the vehicle for which the special plates
7 are issued.

8 As is the case for other special registration plates
9 connected with military service, the surviving spouse of a
10 veteran who was issued special disabled veteran — branch of
11 service plates may continue to use the special plates, subject
12 to any applicable fees, but must surrender the plates upon
13 remarriage.

14 Under current law, seriously disabled veterans who have been
15 provided with an automobile or other vehicle by the United
16 States government are exempt from the payment of vehicle
17 registration fees and are issued special disabled veteran
18 registration plates. A veteran with those special plates is
19 not required to apply for a persons with disabilities parking
20 sticker. Under the bill, that privilege will continue to apply
21 only to those seriously disabled veterans who display the
22 current disabled veteran plate.